

Message Text

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MCCLOSKEY FROM AMB HODGSON

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, APU

SUBJ: US CONGRESSIONAL OBSERVERS AT ASIAN PARLIAMENTARIAN UNION

(APU) GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. SENIOR LDP DIETMEN UICHI NODA AND NAOKICHI KITAZAWA AND APU SECY GENERAL (FORMER AMBASSADOR) YOSHIHARU TAKENO CALLED ON ME NOV 28 TO DISCUSS THE ADVISABILITY OF INVITING ONE OR MORE US CONGRESSMEN TO ATTEND THE APU GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS OBSERVERS, TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED (NOW) FOR LATE NOV OR DEC 1976 IN TOKYO. THE GENTLEMEN EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT BECAUSE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN INDOCHINA AND ELSEWHERE THEY THOUGHT IT WISE FOR ASIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS TO BUILD STRONGER TIES AND CLOSER RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM OTHER DEMOCRACIES, PARTICULARLY AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN. THEY ASSURED ME THAT SUBJECTS ON THE GA AGENDA WOULD BE ISSUES OF GREAT INTEREST TO THE US AND THAT AMERICANS WOULD BE WELCOME TO CONTRIBUTE THEIR VIEWS, AS THEY DESIRED.

2. EXPENSES IN JAPAN WOULD BE BORNE BY APU BUT MY VISITORS ASKED IF THERE MIGHT BE OFFICIAL FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM JAPAN. OTHER WISE, IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY FOR THE CONGRESSMEN TO COVER THEIR OWN TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES. PLEASE ADVISE ON THIS POINT.

3. I WELCOMED THE PROPOSAL IN PARTICULAR AND ENCOURAGED IN GENERAL AS MUCH EXCHANGE AS POSSIBLE BETWEEN OUR PARLIAMENTARIANS AND OTHER LEADERS. I STRESSED THAT I WOULD BE HAPPY TO APPROVE AND ENCOURAGE ATTENDANCE OF CONGRESSMEN. I PROBED CONCERNING THE ATTITUDES WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESPECT TO U.S. CONGRESSMEN ATTENDANCE OF OTHER APU PARLIAMENTARIANS

BOTH IN JAPAN AND ELSEWHERE AND SUGGESTED THAT THEY CANVASS THESE ATTITUDES AND CONTACT US AGAIN AFTER A READING HAD BEEN TAKEN.

4. AMB TAKENO CONTACTED THE EMBASSY JAN 28 WITH AN INTERIM REPORT. HE HAS RECEIVED INFORMAL RESPONSES FROM INDIVIDUALS IN THE PHILIPPINES, THAILAND, ROC, AND ROK (THE OTHER FULL MEMBERS) ALL EXPRESSING PERSONAL APPROVAL OF THE PROJECT. IN HIS INQUIRY TO THEM, AMB TAKENO PROPOSED THAT NATIONAL CHAPTERS CONSIDER HIS PROPOSAL AND, IF THEY AGREED, UNDERTAKE APPROPRIATE ENDORSEMENTS. JAPAN'S CHAPTER, CURRENTLY CHAIRED BY LDP DIETMAN AND FORMER PM NOBUSUKE KISHI, WHO FAVORS TAKENO'S PROPOSAL, IS EXPECTED TO ENDORSE THE PROPOSAL FAIRLY SOON. OTHER NATIONAL CHAPTERS ARE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW, AFTER WHICH THE APU SECRETARIAT WOULD FORMALLY INVITE US CONGRESSMEN TO PARTICIPATE. (AMB TAKENO INFORMED US THAT PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, INDONESIA (WHICH WITHDREW FROM APU), MALAYSIA (WHICH HAS HOSTILE TOWARD APU DURING PM TUN RAZAK'S RULE), TONGA, WESTERN SAMOA, AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA WILL ALSO PROBABLY BE INVITED AS OBSERVERS.)

5. COMMENT: IF INVITATIONS ARE EVENTUALLY FORTHCOMING, AS IT APPEARS THEY WILL BE, I WOULD STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT WE MAKE EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE ONE OR TWO CONGRESSMEN, PERHAPS ONE REPRESENTATIVE AND ONE SENATOR, TO ATTEND THE GA AS OBSERVERS. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR SOUNDING OUT SOME POSSIBLE CANDIDATES ABOUT THEIR INTEREST IN SUCH AN ENDEAVOR.

6. I WILL APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE IN THIS PROJECT AND YOUR REPORTS OF THE REACTION OF CONGRESSMEN WITH WHO YOU MAY DISCUSS THE MATTER.
HODGSON

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